

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 21 January 2003
Name of applicant/court: Society for Promotion of Community Standards
Applicant to the Labelling Body: 2Brothers Films
Title of Publication: Visitor Q
Other Known Title(s): Visitor "Q"
Love Cinema Vol 6
Director(s): Takashi Mike
Producer(s): Susumu Nakajima, Reiko Arakawa
Publisher: Not Applicable
Author(s): Not Applicable
Format: Video Recording VHS/NTSC
Country of Origin: Japan
Language(s): Japanese with English subtitles

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Visitor Q	Running time:	83.52
Trailers:	CineRocket Notice	Running time:	0.09
		Total Running time:	84.01

Excision/Alteration: No Excisions Recommended.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is limited for the purpose of study in a tertiary media or film studies course, or as part of a film festival organised by an incorporated film society, The New Zealand Film Festival Trust, or the Incredible Film Festival, and in all cases to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Nil.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: 07 November 2002
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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Board considers, pursuant to s 3(1) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (the Act), that the publication *Visitor Q* passes through the subject matter "gateways" of sex, crime, cruelty and violence in that it describes, depicts, or expresses or otherwise deals with these matters in such a manner that the unrestricted availability of the publication is likely to be "injurious to the public good".

The Board finds the unrestricted availability of *Visitor Q* to be objectionable in terms of s 3(1) of the Act in that there is a prevalence of sex including incest, crime including murder, incest, rape, assault, drug use and necrophilia, cruelty including bullying and *Visitor Q* hitting people over the head with a rock, and violence including family violence and school bullying. The prevalence and manner in which sex, crime, cruelty and violence are dealt with in the publication means there is a "likelihood of injury to the public good" if it is released unrestricted.

The Board considered s 3(2) of the Act but did not find *Visitor Q* promoted or supported exploitation of children or young persons or both for sexual purposes. The age of the daughter is indeterminate. The Board did not find the rape of the daughter came within this subsection of the Act. The necrophilia scene is part of an escalating absurdity and did not promote or support sexual conduct with or upon a dead body.

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OFLC Ref: 201763

The Board found no clear evidence of the use of urine or excrement in association with degrading, dehumanising or sexual conduct. The Board acknowledged there were acts of torture or infliction of extreme violence or extreme cruelty, but did not find the activities were promoted or supported.

Visitor Q does describe, depict or otherwise deal with matters in s 3(3) of the Act including rape, incest, murder, necrophilia, assault, damage to property and drug use. The extent and degree of acts of serious harm and significant cruelty is high. The Board does not find criminal acts are promoted or supported, however.

Under s 3(4) of the Act, the dominant effect of *Visitor Q* is a satire on Japanese family life although the impact is limited to an art house audience. The merit of the publication is that it is an ambitious attempt to describe the disintegration of family life in Japan. *Visitor Q* is aimed at an adult audience and is a social comment for purposes of entertainment.

It is the Board's opinion that restriction of viewing by persons under 18 years of age with the other conditions is justified due to society's wish to protect young persons from harm, yet provide the minimum interference with the rights under the Bill of Rights Act 1990.

The same decision applies to video, film and DVD for sale or hire.

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